

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An information processing apparatus connectable to a terminal through a network, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a reference Web information generating part  
10 specifying a terminal type of the terminal based on a first request requesting Web information, said first request sent from the terminal through the network, and generating reference Web information that includes a reference path created by adding terminal type information showing the  
15 specified terminal type to a path indicated in the first request for accessing the Web information and that allows the terminal to automatically accesses to the reference path;  
and

a communicating part sending the reference Web  
20 information to the terminal as a response with respect to the first request, and receiving a second request for requesting the Web information specified by the reference path.

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2. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

5           when said communicating part receives the first request from the network, said communicating part additionally provides a default value of the terminal type and reference Web information identification for identifying said reference Web information generating part to the path  
10   for the Web information indicated in the first request, and  
          said reference Web information generating part is executed by the reference Web information identification additionally provided by the communicating part and replaces the default value with the specified terminal type.

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3. The information processing apparatus as  
20   claimed in claim 2, wherein said communicating part creates the reference path by adding the default value before the Web information identification for identifying the Web information in the path for the Web information indicated in the first request.

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4. The information processing apparatus as  
5 claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a Web information generating part generating the  
Web information; and

a display information generating part generating  
a Web page by describing the Web information corresponding  
10 to the terminal in a display format for displaying the Web  
information at the terminal based on the terminal type  
information obtained from the reference path indicated by  
the second request.

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5. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 4, wherein said display information  
20 generating part comprises:

an XML describing part describing the Web  
information generated by said Web information generating  
part and the terminal type information in an extensible  
markup language; and

25 an HTML converting part generating the Web page

by converting the Web information described in the extensible markup language into a hypertext markup language in accordance with a style sheet corresponding to the Web information based on the terminal type information.

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6. The information processing apparatus as  
10 claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of other Web information generating parts generating other Web information other than the Web information, said other Web information linked from the Web information by a relative path,

15 wherein when one of the other Web information generating part corresponding to the other web information generates the other Web information in response to a third request for requesting the other Web information selected by a user at the terminal displaying the Web information,  
20 said display information generating part generates the Web page for displaying the other Web information suitable for the terminal at the terminal, based on the terminal type information set in the reference path.

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7. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

- 5           a Web frame information generating part setting relative paths for the Web information and the other Web information to display for each of a plurality of frames, and generating Web frame information defining the plurality of frames to divide the Web page,
- 10           wherein said reference Web information generating part generates the reference web information that includes the reference path to access the Web frame information created by adding terminal type information to a path for the Web frame information and that allows the
- 15           terminal to automatically access to the reference path, and
- when said communicating part sends the reference Web information to the terminal as the response to the first request and receives the second request requesting the Web frame information by the reference path from the terminal,
- 20           said Web frame information generating part is executed.

25           8. The information processing apparatus as

claimed in claim 7, wherein said display information  
generating part disables the Web frame information  
generating part based on the terminal type information  
obtained from the reference path indicated in the second  
5 request, and generates the Web page that allows the terminal  
to directly access the Web information by a relative path  
for the Web information requested by the first request.

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9. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

an image forming part forming an image; and  
15 an image formation controlling part controlling  
said image forming part,

wherein at least one of said Web information  
generating part and said other Web information generating  
part obtains information concerning said image forming part  
20 from said image formation controlling part and generates the  
Web information based on the obtained information.

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10. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said display information generating part generates the Web page by additionally providing an image to the Web information or the other Web information generated by the Web information generating part or the other Web information generating parts, based on the terminal type information set based on the reference path in common.

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11. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said display information generating part generates the Web page displaying the Web information or the other Web information generated by said Web information generating part or said other Web information generating parts, in a font size suitable for the terminal, based on the terminal type information set based on the reference path in common.

12. The information processing apparatus as

claimed in claim 6, wherein said display information  
generating part generates the Web page displaying the Web  
information or the other Web information generated by said  
Web information generating part or said other Web information  
5 generating parts, by a number of letters suitable for the  
terminal, based on the terminal type information set based  
on the reference path in common.

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13. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 7, said reference Web information generating  
part, said Web information generating part, said other Web  
15 information generating part, and Web frame information  
generating part are programs developed by C language.

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14. An information processing method  
comprising the steps of:  
specifying a terminal type of a terminal  
connected through a network based on a first request  
25 requesting Web information, said first request sent from the



terminal through the network, and generating reference Web information that includes a reference path created by adding terminal type information showing the specified terminal type to a path indicated in the first request for accessing the Web information and that allows the terminal automatically accesses to the reference path; and

5 sending the reference Web information to the terminal as a response with respect to the first request, and receiving a second request for requesting the Web information specified by the reference path.

15 15. The information processing method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:  
generating the Web information; and  
generating a Web page by describing the Web information corresponding to the terminal in a display format  
20 for displaying the Web information at the terminal based on the terminal type information obtained from the reference path indicated by the second request.

16. An information processing apparatus connectable to a terminal through a network, said information processing apparatus comprising:

5           a reference Web information generating part specifying a language used at the terminal based on a first request requesting Web information, said first request sent from the terminal through the network, and generating reference Web information that includes a reference path  
10   created by adding language information showing the specified language to a path indicated in the first request for accessing the Web information and that allows the terminal to automatically accesses to the reference path; and  
          a communicating part sending the reference Web  
15   information to the terminal as a response with respect to the first request, and receiving a second request for requesting the Web information specified by the reference path.

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17. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

25           when said communicating part receives the first

request from the network, said communicating part  
additionally provides a default value of the language and  
reference Web information identification for identifying  
said reference Web information generating part to the path  
5 for the Web information indicated in the first request, and  
said reference Web information generating part  
is executed by the reference Web information identification  
additionally provided by the communicating part and replaces  
the default value with the specified language.

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18. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 17, wherein said communicating part creates  
15 the reference path by adding the default value before the  
Web information identification for identifying the Web  
information in the path for the Web information indicated  
in the first request.

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19. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a Web information generating part generating the  
25 Web information; and

a display information generating part generating a Web page by describing the Web information corresponding to the terminal in a display format for displaying the Web information at the terminal based on the language information  
5 obtained from the reference path indicated by the second request.

10                   20. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said display information generating part comprises:

an XML describing part describing the Web information generated by said Web information generating  
15 part and the language information in an extensible markup language; and

an HTML converting part generating the Web page by converting the Web information described in the extensible markup language into a hypertext markup language in  
20 accordance with a style sheet corresponding to the Web information based on the language information.

21. The information processing apparatus as  
25 claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a plurality of other Web information generating parts generating other Web information other than the Web information, said other Web information linked from the Web information by a relative path,

5                wherein when one of the other Web information generating part corresponding to the other web information generates the other Web information in response to a third request for requesting the other Web information selected by a user at the terminal displaying the Web information,  
10        said display information generating part generates the Web page for displaying the other Web information suitable for the terminal at the terminal, based on the language information set in the reference path.

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22. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:

20                an image forming part forming an image; and  
                 an image formation controlling part controlling said image forming part,

                 wherein at least one of said Web information generating part and said other Web information generating  
25        parts obtains information concerning said image forming part

from said image formation controlling part and generates the Web information based on the obtained information.

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23. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said display information generating part generates the Web page by additionally  
10 providing an image to the Web information or the other Web information generated by the Web information generating part or the other Web information generating parts, based on the language information set based on the reference path in common.

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24. The information processing apparatus as  
20 claimed in claim 19, wherein said display information generating part generates the Web page displaying the Web information or the other Web information generated by said Web information generating part or said other Web information generating parts, in a font size suitable for the terminal,  
25 based on the language information set based on the reference

path in common.

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25. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said display information generating part generates the Web page displaying the Web information or the other Web information generated by said Web information generating part or said other Web information generating parts, by a number of letters suitable for the terminal, based on the language information set based on the reference path in common.

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26. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, said reference Web information generating part, said Web information generating part, said other Web information generating part, and Web frame information generating part are programs developed by C language.

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27. An information processing method comprising the steps of:

- 5 specifying a language used at a terminal connected through a network based on a first request requesting Web information, said first request sent from the terminal through the network, and generating reference Web information that includes a reference path created by adding  
10 language information showing the specified language to a path indicated in the first request for accessing the Web information and that allows the terminal automatically accesses to the reference path; and  
sending the reference Web information to the  
15 terminal as a response with respect to the first request, and receiving a second request for requesting the Web information specified by the reference path.

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28. The information processing method as claimed in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

- generating the Web information; and  
25 generating a Web page by describing the Web



information corresponding to the terminal in a display format for displaying the Web information at the terminal based on the language information obtained from the reference path indicated by the second request.

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29. An information processing apparatus  
10 connectable to a terminal through a network, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a profile reference Web information generating  
part specifying a profile requested by a profile change  
request requesting to change the profile with respect to Web  
15 information displayed at the terminal, said profile change request sent from the terminal through the network, and  
generating profile reference Web information that includes  
a profile reference path created by setting profile  
information showing the specified profile to a path for  
20 accessing the Web information and that allows the terminal to automatically accesses to the profile reference path;

a communicating part sending the profile  
reference Web information to the terminal as a response with  
respect to the profile change request, and receiving an  
25 auto-accessed request for requesting the Web information

suitable for the profile by the profile reference path;

an authenticating part authenticating the user  
of the terminal when the auto-accessed request is received  
and allowing to provide the Web information suitable for the  
5 profile indicated in the profile reference path based on an  
authentication result.

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30. The information processing apparatus as  
claimed in claim 29, further comprising:

a Web information generating part generating the  
Web information; and

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a display information generating part generating  
a Web page by describing the Web information corresponding  
to the terminal in a display format for displaying the Web  
information at the terminal based on the profile information  
obtained from the profile reference path indicated by the  
20 auto-accessed request.

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31. The information processing apparatus as

claimed in claim 30, wherein said display information generating part comprises:

an XML describing part describing the Web information generated by said Web information generating part and the profile information in an extensible markup language; and

an HTML converting part generating the Web page by converting the Web information described in the extensible markup language into a hypertext markup language in accordance with a style sheet corresponding to the Web information based on the profile information.

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32. The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 31, further comprising:

a plurality of other Web information generating parts generating other Web information other than the Web information, said other Web information linked from the Web information by a relative path,

wherein when one of the other Web information generating part corresponding to the other web information generates the other Web information in response to a next request for requesting the other Web information selected

by the user at the terminal displaying the Web information,  
said display information generating part generates the Web  
page for displaying the other Web information suitable for  
the terminal at the terminal, based on the profile  
5 information set in the profile reference path.

10 33. An information processing method  
comprising the steps of:

specifying a profile requested by a profile  
change request requesting to change the profile with respect  
to Web information displayed at a terminal connected through  
15 a network, said profile change request sent from the terminal  
through the network, and generating profile reference Web  
information that includes a profile reference path created  
by setting profile information showing the specified profile  
to a path for accessing the Web information and that allows  
20 the terminal to automatically accesses to the profile  
reference path;

sending the profile reference Web information to  
the terminal as a response with respect to the profile change  
request, and receiving an auto-accessed request for  
25 requesting the Web information suitable for the profile by

the profile reference path;

authenticating the user of the terminal when the  
auto-accessed request is received and allowing to provide  
the Web information suitable for the profile indicated in  
5 the profile reference path based on an authentication result.

10 34. The information processing method as  
claimed in claim 33,  
generating the Web information; and  
generating a Web page by describing the Web  
information corresponding to the terminal in a display format  
15 for displaying the Web information at the terminal based on  
the profile information obtained from the profile reference  
path indicated by the auto-accessed request.